(d) if the husband neglects the maintenance of his wife and the fact of his being alive or dead is not known.

Proviso. 1. Dissolution under sub-sections (a), (c) and (d) of section 2 will be valid only after a Kazi has declared the grounds for dissolution duly proved, in which case either the Kazi or the woman might declare the marriage dissolved.

2. When the husband is present and he is too poor to maintain the woman, dissolution of marriage by the latter under sub-section (c) of section 2 will be valid only when the following conditions are satisfied.—

(a) The man is indigent.
(b) His indigence is proved before the Kazi.
(c) The woman and her witnesses have sworn to her right to maintenance.
(d) She resides in the house assigned to her by the husband.
(e) She does not quarrel with the husband.
(f) She applies for a dissolution to the Kazi.
(g) She gives 3 days' time to the husband for making amends.
(h) The dissolution is made by the expression of words like "I have dissolved my marriage with so and so".
(i) The woman has attained puberty.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Sir, I move that the bill be taken up and passed to-morrow.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Resolutions:—1. Co-operative movement in the State.—(*cont.*)

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Sir, yesterday I placed a few facts before the Hon'ble Members of this House to bring home to them the necessity of an enquiry in the actual working of the Co-operative movement in the State. I may add that in the case of all public or popular movements, whether economical or political, it si the general practice among all civilised nations to look into such movements from time to time so that they may know what progress they have made, whether they are proceeding on right lines or have been side-tracked along undesirable directions and what further improvements could be made in the light of actual experience gained. Here also we want that the Cochin Co-operative movement, now 20 years old, may have the benefit of a scrutiny into its actual working so that we may know where we are, so that we too may know whether we are progressing on right lines and whether any further improvements are possible in the light of the experience so far gained.

The Hon'ble the Secretary to the Diwan advanced a few arguments to disprove the necessity of such an enquiry. With due deference to his views, I beg to submit that every one of the arguments that he has advanced is an argument against the position he has taken up. For instance, there is the first argument.

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He has admitted that there are very serious defects in the actual working of the Co-operative movement in the State. While admitting that, he has tried to console the Hon'ble Members of this House that we are none the worse or conditions here are not worse than the conditions in many other parts of India. I say it is a very poor consolation for the people of Cochin. I would say that, circumstanced as we are with the special facilities that we possess, we could have set a model for other States to follow. It is a very poor compliment to Cochin that we are not worse than many other parts of British India. I wish he would not extend this argument to other departments like, Education, administration of Justice, the Huzur Secretariat and so on.

Secondly, he spoke of supply and demand. He said that supply can only follow demand and he presumed or suggested that there was only a demand for credit societies. But I would respectfully reply him that there is also such a thing as stimulating demand for a good thing. Do we not try to stimulate a demand for education? Why? We try even to compel education or thrust education on people by compulsory enactments. Do we not try to stimulate demand for such good things as improved methods of appliances of agriculture and so on? When a thing is found to be good we do not wait for demand to come up by itself, but we also try to stimulate the demand. I believe that is one of the functions of the Co-operative department to stimulate demand for societies of a non-credit character. Now, even for granting for argument's sake that there is no demand for non-credit societies, can the Hon'ble Member assure this House that even the credit societies that we have are proceeding on satisfactory lines, that they have in an appreciable degree realised the aims for which they have started? Can the Hon'ble Member assure us that these societies have in any material egree reduced indebtedness among the peasantry and the artisan classes? Can the Hon'ble Member assure us at least that they have not tended to increase the indebtedness in many cases? I am afraid, Sir, there is a general apprehension among the people—and so far as I am concerned a well-grounded apprehension—that the Co-operative Credit Societies, as they are working at present, have in many cases or in a large majority of cases tended to increase instead of decreasing the indebtedness among the people. Sir, is it not a sufficiently serious matter to deserve to call for an immediate inquiry into the matter?

Again the Hon'ble the Secretary to the Diwan was pleased to say that we do not stand in the way for an academic information. That is exactly the reason why we want an enquiry into the practical working of the Co-operative movement. We do not

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want any more of academical principles of co-operation. We have had enough of these principles. But we want to know the actual facts of the Co-operative movement here in Cochin. We want to know the facts of experience and for that purpose we want that an enquiry should be conducted by a man of practical experience in the field of co-operation.

Again the Hon'ble the Secretary was pleased to say that a casual visit of an expert like Sir G. K. Devadhar would not improve matters to any appreciable extent. Now, the mover of the resolution and another Hon'ble Member who spoke from this side of the House said that they wanted only a casual survey on this subject. We want to conduct a survey under the guidance of such experienced men like Sir Devadhar. If it is found necessary that a local committee should be appointed to work under his guidance, we could very well do that, just as in Travancore. What we do want is an intelligent and thorough enquiry into the actual working of the movement here.

Again the Hon'ble the Secretary spoke of the question of money. But are we not spending thousands of rupees on the Co-operative department every year? According to the last budget it was something like 12 to 13 thousand rupees. And this grant is an annual outlay. If therefore there is any reasonable apprehension that a good part of this outlay is running to waste—and I fear that there is a general misapprehension—is it not only reasonable that we should spend a few hundreds so as to avoid or do away with this waste of public money? Are we not justified in spending a few hundreds of rupees to save a few thousands? If we do not do that, would it not be penny wise and pound foolish?

Coming to the last argument that because they are conducting a co-operative enquiry in Travancore it is enough that we read that report, is a very strange argument indeed, the least I could say about it. By reading the report of Travancore, could we know anything about the actual working of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies here, the work which the Co-operative Inspectors has been doing here? Could we know, by the reading of that report, about the instances of fraud, misappropriation and fraudulent practices committed here in Cochin? Could we know anything in detail of all these by reading the Travancore report? Could we know many other things which are peculiar to Cochin? It is no doubt true that Cochin and Travancore have got something in common. But that does not mean that we do not want any enquiry here. If the Government had adopted this attitude some time earlier, they could have avoided spending much money on various departments which

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were instituted here in Cochin. For instance, Travancore had a Banking Enquiry Committee there. Cochin also had something similar. We could well have avoided that. Again we could have avoided the Kuri Committee. Again there was an Economic Survey there. They carried out an economic survey in 30 typical villages. Again, were the Government of Travancore wise enough to adopt this principle, they might as well avoid the educational survey, which they are now proposing. It is enough if they simply read our report that has been written here. Well, Sir, to say the least, this is a very strange argument which would hardly convince the Hon'ble Members of this House, that a detailed enquiry into the practical working of the Co-operative movement in Cochin is not necessary. Therefore I once again say that every one of the arguments advanced by the Hon'ble the Secretary to disprove such a necessity for the survey, is found to be untenable. On the other hand I have tried to place a few facts before this House to bring home to the Hon'ble Members the great necessity for taking an important survey.

The Co-operative movement is a very importaut movement. It is fraught with such beneficial consequences to general welfare of the community and we are not realising the benefits of the movement. We should know where the difficulties are. We should know where and how the blame has to be apportioned. And we should know what further steps has to be taken to improve matters in Cochin. It is a matter widely affecting the economic interests of the people. Therefore, I beg to commend this resolution, which has been so ably moved by my Hon'ble friend, to the general acceptance of this House.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.— Sir, I support the resolution. I don't think I need say very much in support of this resolution. The Government admits that the movement is not working properly. Day-before-yesterday, the bill that was brought by the Government for amending the Co-operative Societies Regulation was adjourned because the Members were not ready and they had not sufficient time to study the provisions of the bill. That bill may not be coming before this House earlier than Vrischigam 1109. Now, before the bill comes for consideration in this House, if there is time to go in detail into the Co-operative movement in the State, it is only just and proper that the Government should spend some money to get as good and as expert an information as possible. The resolution suggests that the services of Sir G. K. Devadhar could be made available. Of course, it may not be possible to get such a busy man as Sir Devadhar to come here and work for a very long time. But with

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the guidance of such a man, if we can only get that, that itself will go a great way, and if the Government appoints a small committee and ask them to go into the matter with the assistance and guidance of Sir Devadhar, it will be very good. It is well known and every Member of this House knows that there is something wrong in the department As far as I can see, both the officers of the department and non-officials who are in charge of the department are drifting matters from bad to worse. And unless we diagnose the disease no cure can be obtained. The Co-operative movement is being worked everywhere. There is a movement in Germany, it spread to England and we have borrowed it. But what is wrong with the movement we could not know except through an enquiry. If it is possible to find out that without an enquiry, so much the better. If the Government do not want it, certainly the people want it. Numberless people have lost their money. Numerous persons have committed misappropriation. Several overdrafts have been detected. And either the non-officials or the persons of the department concerned are unable to check or to discover it. In this stage of things it is necessary to know what steps should be taken by us to effectively prevent repetitions of this nature in the future. Only a thorough enquiry will meet the purpose. I do not believe it is impossible to conduct an enquiry and find out the remedies. Under these circumstances I support the resolution.

Dr. A. R. Menon—This Co-operative business has given us enough trouble and if talking would improve the department, this department would be the best department in the State. No department has attracted so much talk as this one. Now my only anxiety is that something must be done to improve matters. That something is rotten in the department, all are agreed. The blame also is to be divided more or less equally between officials and non-officials and everybody connected with the movement. There is no doubt about that. If this resolution is carried and if you make it a condition that the bill will be introduced only after ascertaining the views of Sir Devadhar, the most valuable time will be lost. I have not the least objection in appointing a committee to enquire into the working of the Co-operative department. But that must not lead to an indefinite postponement of the bill. The sooner you go into this matter, the better for all parties concerned. My suggestion is, even if you can't get the services of an expert from outside, we should try our level best, with what little that Providence has given us, to carry on this work. Again let me say that while I am not against the appointment of this committee, I am

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very anxious that the committee should be appointed and must be appointed at the earliest moment. I honestly think that it would have been in the best interests of the department if you had allowed the bill to go into the second stage, but it is now too late to speak about that. If I find that its appointment stands in the way of the bill being taken in the near future, then, considering that consistency should be observed, I shall be obliged to vote against this proposition. On the other hand if this appointment will not in any way delay the passage of this bill through this Council, I am one for supporting it.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—As observed by my Hon'ble friend, the Member for Cheruviruthi, the necessity for looking into the Co-operative movement in the State is felt not only by the Government but also by the non-official side of this Council, and I say the best proof afforded is the attempt on the part of the Government in introducing the bill which was tabled day-before-yesterday. No doubt, I, perhaps in my innocence thought that this resolution will be gladly accepted by the Government, seeing that the object of this resolution is only to enable them to collect more material which will make their attempted legislation more beneficial and more useful. The only thing, as far as I can see from the Hon'ble the Secretary to the Diwan's speech yesterday, that stands in the way is with regard to the little expenditure that may have to be incurred in getting down an expert and getting a report after examination. He very easily solved that problem by saying that a little copying work will be quite sufficient to collect materials because a report on the same movement in Travancore is ready to be published and we can very easily get that. I really fail to see how a copying of that report will be beneficial so far as Cochin is concerned. In many respects Travancore and Cochin go on all fours. I believe we do not stand to copy prescriptions that are given by the Doctors in Travancore for ailments in Cochin. If they are identical in all respects, I do not see why we should have such a costly institution as the Medical Department. That is not the spirit in which it should be looked at, and we must try as far as possible to stand on our own legs. In other words, we should have our own data collected and work done on that data will be both beneficial to the Government and the people. I do not think that as the bill has been adjourned day-before-yesterday, considerable delay will be caused between collecting all the materials and the attempted legislation by the Government. I do not quite follow the Hon'ble Member for Cheruviruthi when he says that he would vote in favour of the motion if the committee is appointed very soon. So far as I know there is no proposal to appoint a

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committee here. It is only to get the advice of some expert in the matter and as far as I can see the Government is satisfied that there is an expert in the State. He may be asked, with the assistance of persons interested in the movement in the State, to collect all the necessary information. Just take for instance: In the preamble of the bill it is said, "to bring this bill in order to amend the existing law and make it more comprehensive etc." After reading this and after attending to the discussions yesterday, I tried my best to find out what are the new provisions made in this bill to make it more comprehensive In fact I looked into the matter with particular eye to the co-operative marketting. I find that there is no provision at all with regard to co-operative marketting.

Similarly if there is any intention to make it more comprehensive, I do not see the reason why the Government should be so reluctant to accept this resolution and see that more materials are collected and those materials are made use of in introducing the bill, which of course is admitted to be absolutely necessary both by the Government and by the non-official Members of this House. With these words, I strongly recommend the resolution to the acceptance of this House.

The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and met again at 3 p. m. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

Deputy President.—We shall continue the discussion on the resolution of Mr. Mathew.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I have not much to add. All that we wish to do is to combine efficiency with economy. We do not want to avoid the scrutiny of the working of the movement. We thought that all the information that we wanted will be in the report that may be published very soon in Travancore. We do not want to stand in the way of any further enquiry and I don't think the Government will oppose it formally. We will take the sense of the House. We say that public money need not be spent on it, because there won't be much use of a fresh report. If the sense of the House is for that, we will re-consider the position. Anyhow we are not going to oppose it now.

Deputy President.—Do you want to reply, because they say that they stand by the sense of the House, why do you want to reply?

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—It may be put to votes.

Resolution put and carried.

2. Administration Reports of all Departments.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I move "That this Council requests the Government to publish annually administration reports of all the departments." It is a fact that the Government are publishing reports

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